

## **CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**MAY 22ND, 1998 - HALL 769**

Present: Mr. Roger Côté, Chair, Ms. C. Hughes, Interim Secretary  
Prof. B. Barbieri, Mr. B. Barua, Ms. J. Brathwaite,  
Ms. C. Cogger, Mr. W. Curran, Mr. J. Edwards, Mr. A. Feldman,  
Ms. A. Ghadban, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. D. Hinton, Ms. A. Kerby.  
Mr. R. MacIver, Ms. A. Siano, Ms. L. Toscano, Mr. H. Zarins

Regrets: Ms. J. Hackett, Ms. K. Hedrich, Ms. A. Vroom, Ms. M. West

Guests: Mr. Rob Green, CSU Vice-President (replacing Mr. J. Edwards on  
CCSL for 1998)  
Clarissa Cassidy, CSU Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank

#### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Zarins and seconded by  
Mr. Edwards.

**The motion was carried**

#### **2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR**

Mr. Côté welcomed the newly appointed Director of Libraries, Mr. William  
Curran to Council. Mr. Curran informed Council that he would be happy to make  
a brief presentation concerning the Concordia libraries next September.

Mr. Côté also announced the creation of the **NANCY TORBIT MEMORIAL  
ENDOWMENT FUND** in memory of the late Nancy Torbit, who was the  
Director of Health Services. This endowment will provide funds for bursaries and  
awards to Concordia students. Contributions to this fund may be made through  
the Concordia Advancement Office.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>, 1998**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by  
Ms. Kerby.

**The motion was carried**

4.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Mr. Côté informed Council that the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank Report which was tabled at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting would now be presented Mr. James Edwards and Ms. Clarissa Cassidy.

Mr. Edwards introduced Ms. Cassidy to Council. Ms. Cassidy is an employee of the CSU and works in the Office of the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank. Mr. Edwards gave Council an indepth explanation and overview of this operation. The Off-Campus Housing operation provides a listing of housing available in Montreal to students. It provides hard copy listings as well as maintaining a data base listing by vicinity and costs. Upon request this information is given to out of town students. Dr. Graub suggested that it might be a good idea to link the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank service up with the services offered by CAPS through web site addresses.

The Job Bank focuses mainly on undergraduate students, and provides a referral service for employers seeking students to work. Available positions are posted weekly. They vary in type and are mainly "survival" jobs. Access to the listing is free but students are requested to present their Concordia I.D. card.

A handbook is published by the Concordia Student Union, entitled "The Housing Handbook A CSU guide to housing in Montreal." The booklet is a referral tool, provides housing information and answering general questions.

The Off-Campus Housing Office sometimes acts as an "advocate" service for students. It selectively screens the postings of landlords, buildings and vicinities. Ms. Kerby suggested that in "screening" issues, it would be helpful to seek out the advice of legal aid services offered through Advocacy.

The Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank office is located on the Mezzanine Floor of the Hall Building. It has recently been redecorated with new office furniture and equipment. Telephone services are available for students. The bulletin boards are located there. Postings include a volunteer section, a "for sale" section , and employment and rental sections.

Mr. Edwards reported that the office has a good relationship with CAPS. It is the intention to expand the services to the Loyola Campus in September. Most likely they will be located in the Campus Centre. There will be a hook-up with the the CSU Computer Labs. It is anticipated that by August/September both campus locations will provide the same information and service.

This operation is partially funded by CCSL and the CSU.

Mr. Côté thanked Mr. Edwards and Ms. Cassidy for their presentation.

Council acknowledges receipt of this formal report of the CSU Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank report and consequently will proceed with the transfer Of the CCSL operations subsidy to the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank Office.

## **5. REPORTS**

### **5.1**

#### **Services for Disabled Students**

Ms. Kerby informed Council that the Services for Disabled Students is part of Advocacy and Support Services. It's office is in the Hall Building, on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Mr. Leo Bissonnette, the Co-ordinator, Ms. Nelly Trakas and Ms. Maria Teresa Zenteno, case workers are presenting today..

Mr. Bissonnette informed Council that the aim of the service is to provide support programs to assist disabled students in attaining their academic goals.

This is accomplished by making the university more accessible to all disabled students. Academic programmes may attract students to come to Concordia University, but providing them with the specialized services they require will keep them here and allow them to pursue their studies in a positive and life enhancing manner. The centre has modern state of the art equipment which provides the technical assistance they need and a community volunteer programme facilitates their mobility within the Concordia community.

The service operates in case-load methodology. Ms. Trakas works with those students who have learning disabilities. In-house counsellors from Counselling and Development provide screen for students who may have learning disabilities. Further diagnostic testing is done by outside sources at the student's expense. With respect to this diagnostic testing, Mr. Edwards suggested that there should be an inquiry into the student medical insurance plan to see if these costs could be covered. He offered to pursue this item.

Ms. Zenteno is case worker for students with hearing impairments and mobility impairments and supports students with visual impairments. Special needs for disabled students can range for tutors, to classroom assistants, to volunteers who help students to get from point A to point B, to equipment to facilitate their learning. Concordia University services a large number of hearing impaired students with interpreters and modern equipment. The service is internationally recognized for its computerized note taking in the classroom. Programmes and services provided by the Services for Disabled Students are a vital component in the recruitment and retention of students with disabilities.

Mr. Côté thanked Mr. Bissonnette, Ms. Trakas and Ms. Zenteno for their presentation.

## **6.**

#### **ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

Ms. Siano informed Council that despite the upcoming walk-out of physicians, scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Health Services will have physicians available.

Mr. Edwards informed Council that the Faculty of Fine Arts Undergraduate animation screenings would take place at the Imperial Theatre on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1998.

Dr. Graub informed Council that Counselling and Development was planning its schedule for the Fall semester. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, it would be hosting a Learning Fair entitled "Hooked on to Learning". The fair will take place on the Mezzanine Floor of the Hall Building.

7.

#### **RECREATION & ATHLETIC ADVISORY BOARD REPORT**

Ms. Kerby reported to Council on the open forum which took place on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1998 to better understand the decision concerning the discontinuation of the Volley Ball Programme at Concordia University. This meeting provided an opportunity to further discuss the decision taken by the Board. In attendance were the Board, members of CCSL, members of the Department of Recreation and Athletics and many of Concordia's athletes.

A healthy and open exchange took place on issues governing finances, the scheduled trip to Japan, the publicity provided for the team through the department. Other issues discussed were: other options, choice of sport and how this decision came about. Issues of the Philosophy of Varsity Sport vs Intramural Sport were discussed and the equity in womens sports programmes.

Subsequently the Recreation & Athletics Review Board met on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1998 to review its decision. The Board did not alter its decision.

Ms. Kerby indicated that the Advisory Board would review the process of determining the future of a programme and its time-table.

The purpose of this Board and its timetable are attached to the minutes.

Ms Kerby also stated that there will be a cyclical review of all sports programmes, taking into consideration a formula for financial support from the community in an attempt to defray costs. The future composition of the Board and its recommendations will be presented to CCSL at the September meeting. With respect to composition, continuity is needed – a possibility of 2 year staggered terms. Also, there is need to maintain parity in its composition.

Mr. Zarins reported to Council that the Stone Gym Proposal would not be affordable at this point. At the moment, there is no Plan B.

With respect to the 1997-1998 budget, the department is projecting to incur a deficit of \$30,000 at year end.

It is their intention to operate within budget for the 1998-1999 budget.

Mr. Charles Emond, the Vice-Rector, Services and Mr. Zarins will deal with this deficit and it will be managed by Athletics & Recreation and the Vice-Rector Services. Mr. Edmond has indicated the need for contingency measures within the budget.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1**

#### **Relationship between CCSL and the Board of Governors**

Mr. Feldman reported that the letter concerning the relationship of CCSL and the Board had not made its way to the Board for discussion. It would appear that the decision to present an issue to the board is at the "discretion" of the Rector or the Secretary to the Board. CCSL issues need to be taken to the Board directly and should not be relegated to someone else's "discretion". Mr. Feldman felt that the time delay of this administrative process (January to May) is doggedly slow and unacceptable. The Chair indicated that any delays in responding should not be attributed to the Rector or the Chair of the Board of Governors, as this matter has been under considerable deliberations with the Secretary of the Board of Governors and the Chair of CCSL. CCSL should have the option to by-pass this administrative level. The effectiveness of CCSL is questioned if an administrative process can cause this type of delay. The present reporting line is for CCSL to report to the Board of Governors through the Rector.

What is unclear is why there should be any consideration of the merit of an issue between the Rector and the Board. Issues need to be responded to in a more expedient manner. Mr. Feldman feels there is need for further clarification on the linkage of CCSL to the Board of Governors.

In particular issues or questions, if the Rector can clear it up, then there is no need to proceed to the Board. If this is not the case, there should be no time delay in the issue arriving on the Agenda of the next Board Meeting.

It was felt that there is a need for a better mechanism to deal with the Board and this should be through the student representative on the Board.

The Dean of Students will follow on this issue and seek a response from the Rector's office and report to CCSL at the September meeting.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of CCSL will take place in September 1998. The date and place is yet to be determined.

Mr. Côté thanked members of CCSL for their contribution to the Board and student life particularly those members whose terms are up and will no be returning to CCSL next year. He wished everyone a pleasant and safe summer.

## **10. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Professor Barbieri and seconded by Ms. Kerby.

**The motion was carried unanimously**